

In the claims

1. (Previously Amended) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container, said at least one of a table place mat and lap top tray comprising:

(a) a first member having a predetermined shape; and

(b) a second member disposed at least one of within and on an upper surface of said first member at a predetermined location for both retaining and preventing tipping of such specially configured fluid container, said second member further includes a first plurality of gear like members secured to one of an inner surface and an outer surface of said second member, said first plurality of gear like members having a first predetermined pitch for engagement with a second plurality of gear like members having a substantially identical pitch as said first plurality of gear like members and disposed on an opposite one of an outer surface and an inner surface of a predetermined portion of such specially configured fluid container.

2. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined shape is generally rectangular.

3. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined location is adjacent at least one outer edge of said first member.

4. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container, according to claim 1, wherein said first member includes a non-skid surface on at least one of a first side and a second side of said first member.

5. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container, according to claim 4, wherein said first member includes a non-skid surface on each of said first side and said second side of said first member.

6. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container, according to claim 1, wherein said second member includes a cavity disposed in said first member.

7. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container, according to claim 6, wherein said cavity further includes a ring like member disposed therein having each of a predetermined diameter, a predetermined thickness and a predetermined height.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container, according to claim 7, wherein said predetermined height of said ring like member is between about 1/8 inch and about 1/2 inch.

14. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a

specially configured fluid container, according to claim 7, wherein said predetermined thickness of said ring like member is between about 1/8 inch and about 1/2 inch.

15. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container, according to claim 8, wherein each of said first gear like member and said second gear like member are disposed at an angle of between about 20 degrees and about 65 degrees from a horizontal plane.

16. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container, according to claim 8, wherein each of said first gear like member and said second gear like member are disposed at an angle of between about 25 degrees and about 35 degrees from a horizontal plane.

17. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container, according to claim 1, wherein said first member and said second member are made of one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester and polyvinyl chloride.

18. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container, according to claim 1, wherein said first member and said second member are made of polyvinyl chloride.

19. (Withdrawn) A specially configured fluid container for use with at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray including a device to prevent tipping of such specially configured fluid container disposed at least one of within and on an upper surface of said at least one of such table place mat and such lap top tray having a first plurality of gear like members on one of an inner surface and an outer surface of said device for both retaining and preventing tipping of such specially configured fluid container, said specially configured fluid container comprising:

(a) a fluid container; and

(b) a second plurality of gear like members disposed on said fluid container, said second plurality of gear like members disposed on an opposite one of an outer surface and an inner surface of said device for both retaining and prevent tipping of said fluid container, said second plurality of gear like members having a substantially identical pitch as said first plurality of

gear like members for engagement with said first plurality of gear like members.

20. (Withdrawn) The specially configured fluid container, according to claim 19, wherein said fluid container at said least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray are made of one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester and polyvinyl chloride.

21. (Withdrawn) The specially configured fluid container, according to claim 19, wherein said fluid container at said least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray are made of polyvinyl chloride.

22. (Original) An apparatus useful as at least one of a table place mat and a lap top tray which prevents tipping of a specially configured fluid container and a specially configured food container, said at least one of such table place mat and such lap top tray comprising:

- (a) a first member having a predetermined shape; and
- (b) a second member disposed at least one of within and on an upper surface of said first member at a first predetermined location for both retaining and preventing tipping of said specially configured fluid container; and

(c) a third member disposed at least one of within and on an upper surface of said first member at a second predetermined location for both retaining and preventing tipping of said specially configured food container.